



Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Laguna Atascosa Unit

Kiskadee Trail – pedestrians only—1/8-mile loop, cement, sunrise to sunset

One of our most popular trails near the Visitor Center. It encircles a pool in wet years when it may harbor an alligator. Watch the treetops for great kiskadees, warblers and green jays. In dry years the alligator often moves to the old livestock trough beside the trail.

Prairie Island Trail – pedestrians only

<1/8 mile loop, crushed gravel, sunrise to sunset

Great for viewing native thornscrub plants, butterflies and birds. Stop and rest in the shaded gazebo. Water feature and bird feeding area. Located across the parking lot from the Visitor Center.

Metalmark Butterfly Trail – pedestrians only < 1/8 mile, cement, sunrise to sunset

Circling the Visitor Center, this trail has many native plants and a photo blind with a water feature and bird feeding area.

Mesquite Trail – pedestrians only 1 ½ mile loop, dirt, sunrise to sunset

Beginning at the Visitor Center parking lot, this figure-eight loop trail winds through grassy savannas, across two small ponds and past an historic family cemetery.

Alligator Pond Trail – pedestrians and bicycles 1/3 mile, paved, sunrise to sunset

This accessible trail at the end of Lakeside Drive follows the shoreline of Laguna Atascosa (lake), leading to a viewing platform on a pond that hosts alligators during wet years.

White-tailed Deer Trail – pedestrians and bicycles—4.5 miles, dirt, sunrise to sunset

This loop trail is located on FM106 just west of San Roman Rd – look for the parking area south of the road. It traverses coastal prairie and thornscrub, and in wet years has several ponds. There are also views of the Cayo Atascosa – the water that feeds into Laguna Atascosa. American alligators can be present in the freshwater.

Lakeside Drive – pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles

1 1/2 miles, gravel and paved, sunrise to sunset

Follow this road to reach our 3,500-acre freshwater lake, Laguna Atascosa. In the fall, this shallow lake can have more than 20 species of wintering waterfowl, egrets, herons, pelicans and shorebirds that feed and rest on the lake. Osprey Overlook features a covered kiosk to browse the lake for wildlife. Lakeside Drive is also the entrance to a series of old service roads that are available to visitors for hiking and biking. Entrances are at Kidney Pond Road, Scum Pond Road, Alligator Pond Road and County Line Road. Follow posted signs, detailed maps are available in the Visitor Center.

Bayside Drive – pedestrians, bicycles and Refuge tour vehicles

15-miles, gravel and paved, sunrise to sunset for pedestrians and bicycles, scheduled times for guided tours.

This route is a one-way loop through thornscrub forest, coastal prairies, freshwater wetlands and Laguna Madre shoreline. Plover Point Boardwalk allows you to view the Laguna Madre and is a great place to see shorebirds. An elevated overlook, Redhead Ridge, gives you a 360 degree view of all four habitats. A restroom is located at the Redhead Ridge parking area. Wildlife sightings may include aplomado falcons, white-tail deer, coyotes, Texas tortoise, osprey, great blue heron, reddish egret, crested caracara, Harris' hawk and armadillo. If you are touring by bicycle or on foot, there is a 3-mile round trip trail just south of Redhead Ridge. Moranco Blanco trail traverses coastal prairie and thornscrub with a great view overlooking the Laguna Madre. Guided tours of the Bayside Drive include cultural and natural history, management of wildlife habitat, and encourage participants to be our partners in wildlife conservation.

Bahia Grande Unit

From Highway 100, follow Highway 48 south of Port Isabel. There is a parking area pull-out on the right side of the road before you get to the main water channel to Bahia Grande. This is great place to see wading and shore birds. The refuge also offers birding tours of the Bahia Grande Unit seasonally.

South Padre Island Unit

Visitors may enjoy the refuge tracts along the beach north of Public Access 6 off Padre Blvd. Activities include beachcombing, fishing, bird watching, horseback riding, swimming and camping. The dunes and tidal flats, however, are closed to public activities as they are sensitive wildlife habitats. These tracts are many miles from the public access and are generally accessed by 4-wheel drive vehicle.

Hunting

A limited number of Refuge permits are available for archery and firearms hunts of white-tailed deer, feral hog and nilgai antelope in late fall and winter on specific Refuge units. To apply, contact the Refuge in early summer.

Fishing

Fishing opportunities on the Refuge are available at Adolph Thomae, Jr. County Park along the Harlingen Ship Channel, along the Gulf beaches of the South Padre Island Unit, and at San Martin Lake of the Bahia Grande Unit. Please contact the Refuge for current fishing information.

Meeting Your Needs

Visitor Center hours

The refuge is open seven days a week during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset). Visitor Center hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, five days a week (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas). Restroom facilities are available to the public seven days a week. On closed days or after visitor center hours, there is a self-pay kiosk with maps and information outside the visitor center entrance doors.

Entry permit

Obtain at Visitor Center: \$3 per car. Commercial tour groups require a Special Use Permit – please contact the refuge before your visit. Fee waived for those with valid federal interagency passes, Federal Duck Stamp, or Annual Refuge Pass.

Camping

The Adolph Thomae, Jr. County Park (northern part of the Refuge) offers RV and tent camping. There's camping near Port Isabel to the south, and on South Padre Island.

For your safety and comfort

Avoid chiggers, ticks and rattlesnakes by staying on the trails. Bring insect repellent or purchase it in the Visitor Center to deter mosquitoes.

Prepare for hot days—hike or bike during cooler hours. Bring plenty of water, wear sunscreen and a hat.

Alligators, cougars, and other wild animals can be dangerous. Stay back, do not approach them or feed them. Keep a close eye on small children and pets.

For More Information Contact

Laguna Atascosa
National Wildlife Refuge
22817 Ocelot Road
Los Fresnos, Texas 78566
956/748-3607
956/748-3609 FAX
www.fws.gov/refuge/laguna_atascosa/



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Photographs from left to right,
Blue metalmark. / © Ellie Thompson
American alligator. / © Bill Hubick

Enjoying wildlife watching.
Kemp's ridley sea turtle hatchlings.
Altamira oriole. / © Steve Bentsen
All other photographs / USFWS

Help Us Protect the Refuge

You can keep this Refuge special for wildlife and people by following all Refuge rules:

- Drive only on tour roads. Observe the posted speed limits.
- Stay on trails when hiking and biking.
- Keep pets on leash.
- Do not disturb or remove wildlife, vegetation or historic objects.
- No fireworks, campfires, or alcohol.

Friends of Laguna Atascosa NWR

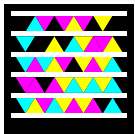
Join the Friends and support conservation and education projects on the Refuge, including the Adopt-an -Ocelot program. To join the Friends or adopt an ocelot, contact:

Friends of Laguna Atascosa NWR
22817 Ocelot Road
Los Fresnos, TX 78566
956/748-3607, x112
www.friendsoflagunaatascosa.org

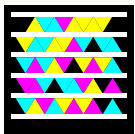
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www.facebook.com/LagunaAtascosaNWR



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Ocelot. / © Larry Ditto

